

Errors and Misrepresentations
in Jim Moore's Conspiracy of One

by Stewart Mayers

1.) On p.10, Moore states that "Advance publication of the motorcade route made it clear that the Presidential parade would proceed west along Dallas' Main Street, enter Dealey Plaza at the end of the downtown area by turning north one block onto Houston Street, then back southwest onto Elm Street for the final sprint onto Stemmons and toward the Trade Mart."

A motorcade route map was published in the 11-22-63 issue of the Dallas Morning News. There is NO MENTION OF HOUSTON STREET OR ELM STREET ANYWHERE ON THE MAP. There is no article with the map.

2.) In a footnote on p.22, Moore writes " When Lyndon Johnson visited Dallas the next year, he rode in the same limousine Kennedy used--but with the bullet-proof bubbletop in place."

The bubble-top is not bullet-proof or bullet resistant according to the Warren Report p.43.

3.) On p.35, Moore rearranges the geography of Dealey Plaza. He writes "The corner of the wooden fence was to Zapruder's right front. Half the world was behind him, including the Texas School Book Depository."

If Moore would check the aerial photograph of Dealey Plaza published by Penn Jones, Jr. in Forgive My Grief, II, on p.190, he would find that the Texas School Book Depository is almost exactly 90 degrees to Zapruder's left. The corner of the wooden fence is almost exactly 90 degrees to Zapruder's right.

4.) Also on p.35, Moore accuses Mark Lane in Rush to Judgement of distrusting persons connected with the government. Moore said Lane "suggests we ignore this mass of testimony 'because of the obvious possibility that it might be colored.'" The passage is cited as coming from p.29 of Rush to Judgement.

First of all, the quote is found on p.37, not on p.29. The entire quote reads as follows: "I do not wish to suggest that their testimony should be dismissed, but it should be cautiously assessed because of the obvious possibility that it might be colored." Moore conveniently omits 12 very important words! Keep in mind that by 1966, Mark Lane had little reason to trust the government.

5.) On p.49 Moore states that the Warren Commission "alleged that the scope defect would have aided the assassin as his target moved away from him." His footnote to document this assertion is Warren Report p.182. There is nothing on p.182 that is relevant in anyway to a discussion of the rifle. The quote referred to is

found on p.194. Frazier went on to say that the scope defect "would cause a slight miss to the right." The report goes on to say erroneously that JFK's car was curving slightly to the right when the fatal shot was fired. Elm Street curves away from the Texas School Book Depository Building, and therefore to Oswald's left.

6.) On p.50, Moore states, and I quote, "The bolt-action on the C-2766 demanded a strong and muscular forearm to operate it efficiently and quickly; Oswald possessed such strength in his upper arms. (emphasis mine) After this really stupid contradiction within the same sentence, he (Moore) has the gall to state that "The flawed telescopic sight, tragically enough, actually aided him in the assassination. He practiced enough to become thoroughly familiar with it, something the experts who later test fired it at targets weren't permitted to do." Even with the scope properly sighted with three shims, they (the experts) still failed to duplicated Oswald's alleged feat of marksmanship, even under ideal circumstances and firing at stationary targets.

7.) Moore's recreation of "Oswald's escape" found on p.52 is badly flawed. His recreation was done after 1987, after radical changes had been made to the sixth floor.

8.) On p.53 Moore is at his ludicrous worst. He defends Oswald's innocence based on the fact that Oswald purchased a "coke" and not a Dr. Pepper. While no definitive definition of "coke" can be made, this is the least of the problems here. The documentation to support this ridiculous assertion is a secondary source, Jim Bishop's The Day Kennedy Was Shot. In addition to Bishop's suspect accuracy, Moore again cites the wrong page. Moore's footnote cites p.157. The correct page number is p.142.

9.) On p.62 Moore reiterates the description of Howard L. Brennan as the "star witness" that led the police to Oswald. As Mark Lane and Sylvia Meagher among others have pointed out, Brennan's supposed observations are a physical impossibility.

10.) On p.78, Moore states that "...Persons firing at the President from the railroad tracks would have no way to conceal themselves." Again, Moore shows his inability to accurately describe the geography of Dealey Plaza, which he, by his own admission, has so often visited.

11.) Also on p.78 Moore states that [Mark] Lane "relied on the assertions of [Thomas] Buchanan..." and that this must "make one pause and consider the value of his [Lane's] work." The truth is that in the entire work Mark Lane refers to Thomas Buchanan exactly once. The reference is found in a footnote on p.115. Lane writes of Buchanan's "often irresponsible speculations...."

12.) On p.79 Moore again takes a quote out of context and completely alters the original meaning. This time the victim is

film]...Grodan claims to have found an assassin." p.171, JFK: Case for Conspiracy) Here Moore has paraphrased to the point of completely changing the obvious meaning of the original statement. The caption on the page in question actually says "What could be the back of an assassin's head..." Grodan also uses the word "putative" which, according to my Random House Dictionary, means "supposed."

24.) On p.118 Moore states that "As the...Lincoln turned onto Elm Street making a hairpin turn directly in front of the Book Depository, Zapruder pressed the shutter release." Since Moore has "watched...[his] Grodan-enhanced version [of the Zapruder film] literally hundreds of times" he should have noticed that the Zapruder film actually starts with the advance motorcycle escorts turning from Houston Street to Elm Street. Therefore Zapruder must have "pressed the shutter release" when the President's limousine was of Main Street turning onto Houston Street. If he hadn't, we would not see those first frames of the motorcycles.

25.) On p.121 Moore refers to one of the most inaccurate books ever published on the JFK Assassination, Four Days, compiled by U.P.I., as a "...well written primer ..." on the assassination. This "well written primer" is full of incredible errors. On p.29, of Four Days, Oswald is credited with having eaten Bonnie Ray Williams' lunch (Warren Report p.68), and states that the rifle was found on the fifth floor. The rifle was found on the sixth floor. (see page 142, Warren Report)

26.) On p.121, Moore states "Critics have interpreted the 'blob' in Willis' photo as an assassin." His support is cited as HSCA volume VI p.119. All eight paragraphs on pp.118-119 in HSCA volume VI deal with analysis of the Hughes film. Nowhere is there any mention of Phil Willis or his photographs.

27.) On p.124, footnote #30 refers to an incorrect page in Mark Lane's book, Rush to Judgment. Correct page for the quote used is p.349, not p.296.

28.) On p.126 Moore makes a big deal out of a misspelled name in Robert Grodan's book High Treason. Boy does he have room to criticize!!!!

29.) On p.127: Again the man that doesn't believe eyewitness testimony should be relied upon (p.91) incredibly relies on probably the most unreliable witness the Warren Commission ever questioned, Marina Oswald, to substantiate the authenticity of the infamous "backyard" photographs. Does Moore have any idea how many different stories Marina has told concerning those photographs??!!?? Even the commissioners themselves were disturbed over the inconsistencies in her testimony.

30.) On p.129 Moore paraphrases Malcolm Thompson from HSCA volume VI, p.177 as reserving "judgement on the apparent shape of

Oswald's chin." What the entire quote actually says is this: "Thompson did, however, reserve his opinion that the chin was suspiciously different from the chin he had observed in Dallas arrest photograph of Oswald."

31.) On p.138 Moore refers to the House Select Committee as "an honest, fact finding panel composed of members of the United States Congress... ." That must be why the need for ethics reform is always in the news.

32.) On pp.142-143 Moore again contradicts himself. On p.142 Moore states that "To have a trained gunman miss a cross-shot from a distance of 110 feet is not out of the realm of possibility." He then states on p.143 that "I've stood behind that fence too long and too often to believe in a point-blank miss." Which is it Mr. Moore??!

33.) On p.145 Moore writes that "there isn't a shred of hard, cold evidence to link the mob to the crime." I suppose Ruby's arrest in connection with the murder of a union executive in Chicago, and his tenure with Al Capone just don't count!

34.) On p.151 Moore writes "the autopsy surgeons spent considerable time probing the wound in the President's back..." The autopsy report reproduced as appendix IX in the Warren Commission Report makes no reference to how much probing was or was not done to that wound. Moore's expert witness here is his urologist friend (or as Cyril Wecht so eloquently put it, his "piss expert"), Dr. John K. Lattimer. After commenting on the autopsist's extensive probing of the back wound, Moore then contradicts that statement writing that "Strap muscles in the neck blocked the path of their surgical probes." He further states that the autopsists were denied permission to dissect the track of the bullet. (p.152)

35.) On p.152 Moore writes that "...the bullet found at Parkland Hospital most likely came from Governor Connally's stretcher, not the President's.... ." No one, including Jim Moore has any idea from where the bullet actually came. This was corroborated to me in conversation with Aubrey Rike.

36.) On p.153, based on the eminent urologist, Dr. John K. Lattimer, Moore locates the President's wound "in the upper back, just below the juncture of the neck and the back." To paraphrase Mr. Moore, we have hard, cold evidence that conclusively proves that JFK's wound is actually 4-5 inches lower than his description. The proof, of course, is the President's suit jacket, dress shirt, and the autopsy face sheet.

37.) On p.156 Moore explains the 4-5 inch difference between the wound and the bullet holes in the President's clothing was the fact that the President's custom made suit jacket and dress shirt were "both elevated." Even my "off-the-rack" suit jackets and dress shirts don't fit that poorly.

46.) On p.182 Moore again misleads his readers. He quotes Dr. Cyril Wecht's answer to a question asked by staff counsel Donald A. Purdy. What Moore leaves out is the question! Here is the question: "Dr. Wecht, does the present state of available evidence permit the conclusion that to a reasonable degree of medical certainty there was not a shot from the side which struck the President? (HSCA Vol. 1, p.347) For 25 years Dr. Wecht has been very vocal about the incompleteness of the JFK autopsy and the mishandling and absence of crucial evidence, most notably the President's brain. Also, Moore could not be bothered to cite the original source and read the answer in context of the entire testimony. He cites a partial excerpt found in Vol. VII.

47.) On p.191 Moore states that "Mark Lane...claimed in Rush to Judgment that there was no evidence to support an entry wound in the rear of the skull, save for the mark on a crude autopsy face sheet." True to his record as an incompetent researcher, Moore gives no documentation to support his claim. Lane only discusses wounds in chapter 4 and reproduces related material in appendices II and III. I cannot find anything to substantiate Moore's claim in my copy of Rush to Judgment.

48.) On p.192 Moore uses Dr. Michael Baden as his expert witness that the single bullet theory is correct. I have no problem with Dr. Baden's qualifications here. The problem is that Mr. Moore failed to inform his reader that Dr. Baden's opinion is based on JFK's autopsy. He also fails to inform his reader of Dr. Baden's expert opinion on JFK's autopsy. In his book, Unnatural Death, in which only the first chapter deals with JFK, Dr. Baden writes that "where bungled autopsies are concerned, President Kennedy's is the exemplar." (p.6; emphasis mine)

49.) On p.198 Moore states that Postal Inspector Harry D. Holmes "saw the bullet [first shot] strike the roadway through binoculars from his office across the plaza." Holmes' testimony is found on pp.289-308 and pp.525-530 in Vol.VII of the Warren Commission's Hearings. In his testimony he is questioned by attorney David Belin about a great many things. Although Holmes does state that he was watching through binoculars (p.291) nowhere does he claim to have seen a shot "hit the roadway." As a matter of fact, Holmes states the duration of the 3 shots was "possibly 20 seconds, or half a minute and then the crack and kind of a lapse and then another crack." (Warren Commission Vol. VII, p.291)

50.) On p.200 Moore states flatly that "His brain is quite destroyed... ." But remember on p.181 Moore has informed his readers that the brain was photographed and x-rayed before and after removal!

51.) On p.187 Moore refers to "Cleburne, Texas attorney Gary Shaw... ." Of course those of us who know Gary are aware that he is an architect, not an attorney.

58.) On p. 211 Moore contends that "...tests prove a Mannlicher Carcano bullet can penetrate two feet of pine and emerge intact." Assuming this statement does have some relevance to the matter at hand, he does not tell where the tests to which he refers were done, who performed them, or where. Also he does not give any information as to the distance of the shots or the condition of the pine.

59.) On p.211-212 Moore closes this travesty of research by saying that "A quarter of a century is too long to be duped, fooled , and mislead (sic) by a handful of greedy individuals intent on destroying the credibility of a system many obviously detest." (emphasis mine) If so many detest the system, how credible can it be!!!!